

BONVEDRO

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BACKGROUND

Parraleta (pah-rah-LEH-tah) is the preferred prime name of the variety commonly known as Bonvedro in Australia. It is widely dispersed around the Mediterranean and on the Iberian Peninsula. Parraleta appears to have originated in the region of Somantano in north-east Spain. Other synonyms include Caricagiola, Carcaghjolu and Carcajolo Nero in Corsica (France), Carenisca in Sardinia (Italy) and Bomvedro in Portugal. DNA analysis has also shown that it is the same as Tinta Caiada in Alentejo (Portugal). In 2010 there were 162ha as Tinta Caiada in Portugal, 119ha as Caricagiola in Corsica and 56ha as Parraleta in Spain. In both Portugal and Spain there has been recent expansion due to renewed interest, particularly in Alentejo and Somontano. Outside of Europe there may not be any significant plantings of Parraleta with the exception of Australia. The exact area in Australia at the present time is difficult to determine. In 1976, the French ampelographer Paul Truel visited vineyards in many Australian regions, accompanied by Allan Antcliff of CSIRO. All of the so-called

'Carignan' in South Australia turned out to be Bonvedro—at that time there may have been as much as 100ha of Bonvedro in SA, most of which was planted in the Barossa Valley. For one reason or another, many of the blocks of Bonvedro that survived the Vine Pull Scheme (1987) in SA have continued to be incorrectly known as 'Carignan'. Furthermore, any 'Carignan' planted before 1966, or propagated from vines planted before 1966, is likely to be Bonvedro. In summary, it is unlikely that there is much true Carignan at all in SA. As for the other states, the situation is less clear. The Vine Health Australia website lists 'Carignan' with 5.09ha in the Barossa Valley, 4.26ha in the Riverland and 2.61ha in McLaren Vale—but only 0.57ha of Bonvedro (in the Barossa Valley). There are just two wine producers of Bonvedro listed in the 2016 Wine Industry Directory—but the correct number is likely to be closer to ten. For further information on the Bonvedro/Carignan situation in Australia, refer to Dry, P.R. and Dry, N.S. (2014) Carignan – the unmasking of an imposter. *Wine Vitic. J.* 29(4):49–52.

VITICULTURE

Maturity is mid-season and vigour is high with erect growth habit. Bunches are medium and compact with medium berries. Yield is moderate to high. Spur pruning is used in Australia. Berries are susceptible to bunch rot. There are at least seven clones registered in Australia, mostly local selections.

WINE

Parraleta produces well-coloured, light to medium bodied, fresh and fragrant wines. There is often a slightly floral character. Wines are best consumed when young. In both Portugal and Spain, some producers consider Parraleta makes better wine than Carignan. There are some blocks of old Bonvedro vines in the Barossa Valley that have a good reputation for their wine.

For further information on this and other emerging varieties, contact Marcel Essling (marcel.essling@awri.com.au or 08 8313 6600) at The Australian Wine Research Institute to arrange the presentation of the Alternative Varieties Research to Practice program in your region.